



QUESTION 4

Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?

When students leave our colleges and universities, they must carry with them characteristics, skills, and behaviors that equip them for life's challenges and the world of work, in Kentucky or anywhere in the world. At its best, postsecondary education instills a sense of civic duty and pride and an obligation to help others through volunteerism and charitable giving. A college-educated individual possesses valuable attributes: a capacity for lifelong learning, the ability to analyze and synthesize information, effective communication and problem-solving skills, and the ability to relate to diverse individuals. Students who are academically engaged and active on campus and in their communities tend to vote more often, lead healthier lives, and be more productive workers and citizens. As we expand our capacity to serve more students, we also must strive to improve the quality of learning at our institutions.

"Kentucky's system should more explicitly hold all stakeholders accountable for student achievement in the public schools as well as the postsecondary system of universities and community colleges."

***Business Forum on Kentucky Education,
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College graduates perform well on licensure and teacher certification exams.

Two-year college students score at or above the national average on WorkKeys assessments.

Public universities have made progress on measures of undergraduate student experience, especially “enriching educational experience” and “interactions with faculty members,” according to the 2003 National Survey of Student Engagement.

PROGRESSES

CHALLENGES

Four-year college undergraduates score below the national average on assessments of writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, according to *Measuring Up 2004*.

The proportion of college students who vote, volunteer, and give to charity declined from 2001 to 2003, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement.

Not enough Kentuckians score well on examinations needed for admission to graduate school, according to *Measuring Up 2004*.

How We Get to Yes

- Improved undergraduate student learning so that more graduates are prepared for careers and graduate and professional programs.
- Integration of civic literacy into the curriculum and the overall college experience so that students become engaged citizens and leaders.
- Development of student learning measurements that track the postsecondary system's contribution to the educational capital of the state and make comparisons against national benchmarks and other states.

